and by cooperative agreements with non-profit organizations (e.g., universiti
A critical provision of the RIHRA program is that it includes a competitive process for selection of individual research efforts. As projects come to completion their funds are returned to a central pool from which research renewals and new projects are funded. Extramural review of project proposals and of the RIHRA research strategy occurs as part of this process, and we have been pleased by the very positive support voiced by reviewers regarding the program.

In addition to the RIHRA program there are complementary health research activities underway to address the specific needs of EPA regulatory programs (e.g., air, water). I believe it is important that you be aware of these programs and their relationship to risk assessment. The very strong relationship of these research activities to the risk assessment paradigm is presented in several documents enclosed for your information. The document "Strategy for Environmental Health Research at EPA" presents our strategic plan for conducting health research that is responsive to the regulatory needs of the EPA, but is also consistent with the underlying scientific issues associated with the risk assessment process. This document presents a very strong conceptual framework and strategic plan for EPA's health research programs. The document "The Role of Health Research in Support of EPA's Regulatory Programs" documents EPA's regulatory mandates and presents the linkage between health research activities and regulatory program needs. The conceptual framework for conducting health research relevant to the EPA's regulatory programs is again closely aligned in this document with the risk assessment paradigm. The briefing package "Congressional Staff Visit" provides ar overview of our research strategy and presents examples of research accomplishments. Please let me know if questions arise regarding these other research programs and I will provide you with additional information or conta

I, or Dr. John Vandenberg, RIHRA Director, would be pleased to discuss any aspect of our research activities with you and to address any questions you may have regarding the enclosed materials. We also would be pleased to provide a brief presentation on our research program to your committee. Please contact me (919-541-2281) or John (919-541-4527) if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Lawrence W Reiter, Ph.D.
Director

Enclosures

cc: William Farland
Ken Sexton
John Vandenberg

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